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## THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY PROMOTES LIMOUSINE SAFETY

As Georgia's young people focus on upcoming proms and graduation ceremonies, the Department of Motor Vehicle Safety (DMVS) urges teens and their parents to be aware of illegal limousine companies that schedule trips without proper authority.

Under current Georgia law, O.C.G.A. 46-7-85.3 and 46.7.85.4, all limousine companies are required to be registered and have proof of insurance on file with the DMVS. Licensed carriers are required to have chauffer permits for all their drivers who must first pass a criminal investigation. A carrier operating illegally will have neither completed the extensive background investigation nor provided DMVS with proof of insurance.

Licensed limousine carriers operate under a maximum tariff and rates are negotiable. A gratuity is voluntary and not mandatory. Limousine companies are allowed a 4-hour minimum during prom season. When making your reservations, always get a written confirmation. As a reminder, contact the company a few days prior to the scheduled event to confirm the arrangements.

"We want to urge everyone to travel smart this prom and graduation season. Investigate each limousine carrier thoroughly, and enjoy the festivities without alcohol or drugs. A few smart steps will ensure that you'll have wonderful memories of these special occasions and not memories of tragedies," said DMVS Commissioner Tim Burgess.

If consumers need more information about a limousine carrier or if you have a complaint, contact the DMVS Commercial Vehicle Section at (678) 413-8731 or (678) 413-8746 or refer to the list of licensed companies at www.dmvs.ga.gov.